

Consultation Regarding Provision of a Wildlife Garden behind Marron Court

1. Introduction

Fernwood Parish Council bought the woodland behind Fernwood Day Nursery in 2022. In July 2022, we held an open meeting for anyone wanting to get involved in the woodland. The idea of improving the area behind Marron Court was discussed and thought to be a good idea. The Council has used a designer to produce plans for delivering a wildlife garden in the area. We would like to give residents the opportunity to feedback on the proposal.

2. Funding for this project

Community Infrastructure Levy¹ (CIL) will be used to deliver this project and it will lead to no increase in the precept paid to the Council through your council tax bill. The Council holds a significant amount of this funding and using CIL on this project will not stop any other improvements being delivered in Fernwood.

3. Principles and Aims

The design for a wildlife garden has been produced based on following broad principles and aims:

- Re-modelling of the site profile to create areas of higher ground that will create new habitat and enable all spoil from site to be used on-site rather than disposed of externally.
- A good balance of tree planting in line with recommendations for more wildlife-friendly species such as rowan, cherries, hazel, and sloe.
- Creation of a better understory planting of shrubs to give areas suitable for bird nesting sites which will also provide food and shelter for most of the year.
- Utilising the sunnier and more open area to create both a high impact flowering meadow for maximum benefit for pollinators and less floriferous meadow to give a species-rich habitat for invertebrates.
- A dense native hedge would be created along the length of the pedestrian pathway to give security from trespass into the site. The hedge would allow access for maintenance but should provide a screen to the garden and a great habitat for wildlife.

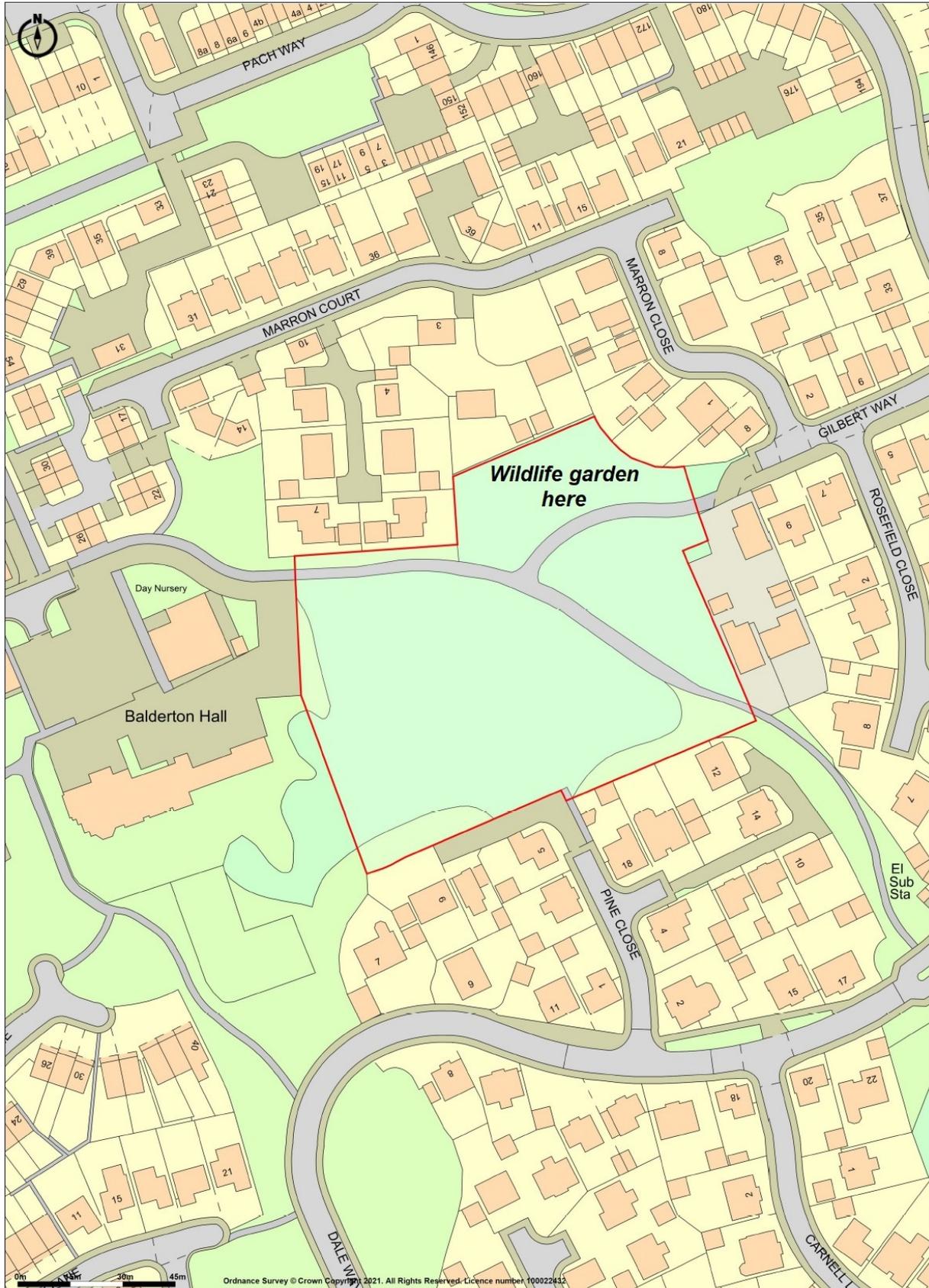
4. Invitation to residents of Fernwood to give feedback on the plans

We have used a professional designer to produce plans for the area. A map showing where the garden will be and a plan of the proposal can be found on the next 2 pages. The pages that follow contain the full details of the proposed specification for the garden.

Fernwood Parish Council invites residents to give their feedback on the plans. Either send your feedback in writing to: The Clerk, Fernwood Parish Council, Fernwood Village Hall, Rubys Avenue, Fernwood, NG24 3RS or complete our online form which can be found and completed at: [Fernwood Parish Council Wildlife Garden Consultation](#)

¹ Funding that is provided by developers when they build in an area.

Fernwood PC
Land to the east of Balderton Hall, Fernwood



Trees and Shrubs:

1. Acer campestre
2. Sorbus Cardinal Royal
3. Salix caprea (existing)
4. Buddleia
5. Viburnum opulus (x3)
6. Prunus Everest
7. Sorbus vilmorinii
8. Acer campestre
9. Prunus spinosa
10. Prunus spinosa
11. Prunus Tai Haku
12. Buddleia (x2)
13. Rosa rugosa (x3)

FERNWOOD WILDLIFE GARDEN
 Concept Plan
 Scale 1:200
 0-----4-----8m



Raised mounds constructed from the soil stripped to create the meadow areas and left to re-wild.

19th December 2022

Marion Fox Goddard
Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
Fernwood Parish Council

Technical Specification and Methodology for Creation of Wildlife Garden at Fernwood adjacent to Marron Close

Background

The intended Wildlife Garden covers an area of approximately 1,500 m² and consists of mature specimen trees with a dense sward of brambles, nettles and creeping thistle covering the sunnier areas of the site. The area is bounded by residential properties (with no access into the site) and is bounded on one side by a major walkway which is well used by residents. The site is relatively level and consists of reasonably rich topsoil overlying a clay sub soil. The existing large trees provide strong shade during the summer over 20% of the site which would require specific shade-loving woodland planting to be effective.

The site has poor 'connectivity' due to fencing along one side which blocks the safe passage of terrestrial animals in and out of the area.

An ecological survey was completed on 16/08/22 and due consideration is made of the findings and recommendations contained therein.

Design Approach

The design has been developed with the following broad principles and aims:

- Re-modelling of the site profile to create areas of higher ground that will create new habitat and enable all spoil from site to be used on-site rather than disposed of externally.
- A good balance of tree planting in line with recommendations for more wildlife-friendly species such as rowan, cherries, hazel, and sloe.
- Creation of a better understory planting of shrubs to give areas suitable for bird nesting sites which will also provide food and shelter for most of the year.
- Utilising the sunnier and more open area to create both a high impact flowering meadow for maximum benefit for pollinators and less floriferous meadow to give a species-rich habitat for invertebrates.
- A dense native hedge would be created along the length of the pedestrian pathway to give security from trespass into the site. The hedge would allow access for maintenance but should provide a screen to the

garden and a great habitat for wildlife.

- The site would benefit from a variety of nesting boxes, animal hides and supplementary feeding stations to encourage a wider variety of wildlife into the garden. Domestic pets should be discouraged from entering the site with polite notices and vigilance.
- The garden would require a management plan in order to develop and enhance the initial work with appropriately trained staff and possibly volunteers.

Construction Methodology

Re-Profiling of Site

- In order to lower the nutrient levels of the site to enable flowering meadow to establish it is necessary to **remove the top layer of soil** and existing roots and other vegetation. This can be achieved by mechanical scraping the top 5 to 6cm of earth and using this to form the two curved mounds shown on the plan.
- The mounds should be compacted and left in a condition to enable them to be planted with trees and shrubs. As the mounds are constructed there should be flexible drainage piping inserted to form wildlife refuges. It is not envisaged that these mounds will be over 1.4m finished height and approximately 24m in length and 10m at their widest point.
- The remaining soil surface should be cultivated to **create a fine tilth suitable for a seed bed**. This can either be achieved by mechanical cultivation or the import of a suitable low nutrient screened soil.

Meadow Creation – Flowering Meadow and Grassy Meadow

The preparation of both meadow areas are the same and are outlined above. The difference is the method of planting and then subsequent management of the areas. The methodology for the two meadow types are as follows:

Grassy Meadow – Seed Sown



This is a seed sown meadow which can be grown in autumn or spring. The seed required is available from **Emorsgate Seeds** and is their **General Purpose Wildflower Mix EM2** which should be sown at the rate of **4g per m²**.

Total area to be seeded is 1,200m² = 4g per m² = 4.8Kg of seed required

The seed bed should be as weed free as possible – existing grass and other ‘weeds’ will outcompete most flowering species in the meadow mixes so it is very important that the seed bed is in the best condition as possible, such as this example:



Meadow Seed Sowing

The seed will need bulking up with sharp sand in order to sow them as evenly as possible. The quantity of sand will depend on the total quantity of mix as well as your experience and confidence. Normally this would be approximately 5 parts of sand to 1 part of seed.

Thoroughly mix the sand and seed and then sow by hand over the marked out area. It is easier to divide the area into 3 or 4 areas and then subdivide the sand/seed mix into 3 or 4 smaller buckets. This way it will cover the area more evenly and any left over can be quickly spread across the whole area.

Once the seed/sand has been sown on the surface the area needs a gentle rake by hand and then the seed should be compacted into the seed bed using either a pedestrian roller or a tractor with a Cambridge roller.

The whole area should be watered once sown and should be kept moist until the seedlings are established. This may involve watering during periods of dry weather.

Aftercare

In year one the idea is to establish a good dense sward by cutting the whole meadow in late August.

Cut to around 100 mm in height. Apart from really strengthening the plants it prevents faster growing species from shading out the slower ones and also helps to discourage annual weed growth which even in the best prepared ground will still be trying to invade. Depending on scale you can use a pedestrian or ride on mower, a hedge trimmer or a strimmer.



The more effort put into year one the easier and better the meadow will be afterwards. Apart from cutting, a close eye should be kept for any perennial weeds or coarse grasses. They are best tackled about a month after the summer cuts – get rid of them by chemical or mechanical means. Once the sward closes over the meadow will be much less vulnerable to invasion but at this stage it needs nurturing. The late summer cut should be left to dry on the surface of the meadow in order to shed its seed and then removed after a week or so and collected into a pile on site.

Flowering Meadow



This is established from a pre-grown meadow turf and laid in the same way that a grass turf is laid.

The requirement is for **90m2 of Pictorial Meadows Patchwork Quilt (or similar) meadow turf**. This can be obtained from www.pictorialmeadows.co.uk and will be delivered to site on a pallet for laying.

Laying the Flowering Meadow Turf

Apart from the much more open structure and the need to handle with some care, laying meadow turf is no different to laying conventional grass turf. Whole turves are laid around the edges and then infilled with interlocking turves to create a seamless planted area. As the meadow will have curved edges it will be necessary to cut the turfs using a large bread knife or similar with the off cuts used elsewhere in the plot.

Once laid the turfs should be compacted to the soil surface using a roller and should be watered in. Watering will be required if no rain is forecast for the first two weeks – after this it will be OK and should establish quickly.



Aftercare

- Immediate aftercare will depend on the season it is laid. It should always be given a good watering after laying - regardless of weather/season. If laid in late autumn / winter there may be nothing more to do. For turf laid from spring to early autumn then watering for the first 3-4 weeks will be critically important to successful establishment.
- In all cases though once the roots get into the ground and the soil warms up, growth will be rapid and flowering starts almost immediately.
- Within 3 weeks of laying you will see a major difference to the meadow – particularly if it is laid during warmer weather.
- In year one it still pays to be vigilant and any perennial weeds should be removed immediately. A quick survey of the sward a couple of times in the first year will really help the sward to close over.

- The flowering meadow will require one cut per year – normally at the end of the season or in spring. All arisings should be gathered off the meadow.

Tree and Shrub Planting

The plan shows the approximate positions for the major planting requirement in the garden. The planting list is as follows:

Trees

Acer campestre x 2

Sorbus Cardinal Royal

Prunus Everest

Sorbus vilmorinii

Prunus spinosa x 2

Prunus tai haku

Shrubs

Buddleia mixed x 4

Rosa rugosa x 6

Viburnum opulus x 3

Corylus (large) x 3

Plants

Primula veris x 200

Hedging

Using bare root whips (can be planted up to/including March) plants should be planted in a double row at the rate of 5 plants per metre.

Total of 82m length of hedge requirement:

Crataegus Monogyna 100-125 BR x82

Prunus Spiniosa 100-125 BR x82

Viburnum Opulus 100-125 BR x82

Acer Campestre 100-125 BR x82

Corylus Avellana 100-125 BR x82

(Suitable native substitutions would be acceptable)

All tree, shrub, hedging and plant stock is available from Old Hall Nurseries www.old-hall.com